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Sen. Kuipers awarded by Michigan Manufacturers Association

LANSING — The Michigan Manufacturers Association honored Sen. Wayne Kuipers, R-Holland, on Tuesday with its MMA Advocate of the Year award for his efforts to strengthen Michigan's educational system.

"Senator Kuipers has made significant steps to infuse rigor, relevance and accountability into the state education system," said John MacIlroy, MMA president and CEO. "This will greatly improve Michigan's workforce in the future."

The association cited Kuipers' role in creating rigorous statewide high school graduation requirements and the Michigan Merit Exam given to 11th-graders. The new requirements and exam help ensure Michigan's young people graduate with the knowledge and skills they need to succeed in the 21st century global workforce.

Kuipers chairs the Senate Education Committee and has been at the forefront of legislative reforms to make sure Michigan schools remain the best in the nation and Michigan employers can continue finding employees ready to work.

"Manufacturing is vitally important to the economic success of Ottawa County and our state," Kuipers said. "I'm honored to be recognized for my work to strengthen education. For Michigan students to find the jobs of tomorrow, they must be ready to start with the knowledge that those positions demand."

The MMA represents thousands of companies that employ 90 percent of Michigan's industrial workers.

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Note: A photo of Sen. Kuipers receiving the award is available online at the senator's photo Web page, www.senate.michigan.gov/gop/photowire/Kuipers/Kuipers.htm.